Serial Number: 10/757,439

Inventor: Kazuhisa SUDO, et al.

Supplemental Preliminary Amendment

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-50 (canceled)

Claim 51 (new): A toner container for use with an image forming apparatus,

comprising:

a container body configured to store toner and including a toner outlet; and

a shutter positioned at the toner outlet, configured to control passage of the toner out

of the container body, and including a movable member configured to move in the toner

outlet,

wherein the container body is replenished with additional toner via the toner outlet.

Claim 52 (new): The toner container of claim 51, wherein the shutter is configured to

interface with a nozzle provided at a setting portion, and the setting portion is configured to

removably receive the container body of the toner container.

Claim 53 (new): The toner container of claim 52, wherein a diameter of the movable

member of the shutter is equal to that of the nozzle.

Claim 54 (new): The toner container of claim 52, wherein the movable member

includes a piston and a piston rod, and an outer diameter of the piston is equal to an outer

diameter of the nozzle.

2

Serial Number: 10/757,439 Inventor: Kazuhisa SUDO, et al. Supplemental Preliminary Amendment

Claim 55 (new): The toner container of claim 51, wherein the movable member includes a piston and a piston rod.

Claim 56 (new): The toner container of claim 55, further comprising: a mouthpiece member at the toner outlet, wherein, the shutter includes a support member, and the mouthpiece member is configured to support the support member.

Claim 57 (new): The toner container of claim 51, wherein the shutter includes an elastic member configured to bias the movable member away from an interior of the container body.

Claim 58 (new): The toner container of claim 57, wherein the elastic member is a coil spring.

Claim 59 (new): The toner container of claim 51, wherein the shutter includes a sealing member including a hole configured to receive the movable member.

Claim 60 (new): The toner container of claim 58, wherein the sealing member is made of a sponge material.

Claim 61 (new): A toner container for use with an image forming apparatus, comprising:

a container body configured to store toner and including a toner outlet; and

Serial Number: 10/757,439 Inventor: Kazuhisa SUDO, et al.

Supplemental Preliminary Amendment

shutter means for controlling the passage of toner out of the container body, wherein

the shutter means is positioned at the toner outlet and includes a movable member configured

to move in the toner outlet,

wherein the container body is replenished with additional toner via the toner outlet.

Claim 62 (new): The toner container of claim 61, wherein the shutter means

interfaces with a nozzle provided at a setting portion, and the setting portion is configured to

removably receive the container body of the toner container.

Claim 63 (new): The toner container of claim 62, wherein a diameter of the movable

member of the shutter means is equal to that of the nozzle.

Claim 64 (new): The toner container of claim 62, wherein the movable member

includes a piston and a piston rod, and an outer diameter of the piston is equal to an outer

diameter of the nozzle.

Claim 65 (new): The toner container of claim 61, wherein the movable member

includes a piston and a piston rod.

Claim 66 (new): The toner container of claim 65, further comprising:

a mouthpiece member at the toner outlet, wherein,

the shutter means includes a means for support, and

the mouthpiece member is configured to support the means for support.

4

Serial Number: 10/757,439 Inventor: Kazuhisa SUDO, et al. Supplemental Preliminary Amendment

Claim 67 (new): The toner container of claim 61, wherein the shutter means includes means for biasing the movable member away from an interior of the container body.

Claim 68 (new): The toner container of claim 67, wherein the means for biasing is a coil spring.

Claim 69 (new): The toner container of claim 61, wherein the shutter means includes a sealing member including a hole configured to receive the movable member.

Claim 70 (new): The toner container of claim 68, wherein the sealing member is made of a sponge material.

Claim 71 (new): A method of mounting a toner container to an image forming apparatus,

the toner container including,

a container body storing toner, and

a shutter arranged at a toner outlet of the container body, configured to control passage of the toner out of the toner container, and including a movable member configured to move in the toner outlet, and the image forming apparatus including,

a container holder configured to receive and support the container body, and a nozzle configured to interface with the movable member, protrude through the shutter, and enter the container body, the method comprising:

Serial Number: 10/757,439 Inventor: Kazuhisa SUDO, et al. Supplemental Preliminary Amendment

inserting the container body into the container holder such that the nozzle enters the container body via the shutter, wherein the nozzle interfaces and forces the movable member into the container body.

Claim 72 (new): The method of claim 71, wherein,

the shutter includes an elastic member,

the movable member includes a piston, and

the elastic member biases the piston away from an interior of the container body.

Claim 73 (new): The method of claim 71, wherein a diameter of the piston is equal to a diameter of the nozzle.

Claim 74 (new): A toner replenishing device for use in an image forming apparatus, comprising:

a toner container including,

a container body configured to store toner,

a shutter arranged at a toner outlet of the container body, configured to control passage of the toner out of the container body, and including a movable member configured to move in the toner outlet; and

a setting portion including,

a container holder configured to support the toner container, and

a nozzle configured to interface with the movable member, protrude through the shutter, and enter the container body.

Serial Number: 10/757,439 Inventor: Kazuhisa SUDO, et al. Supplemental Preliminary Amendment

Claim 75 (new): The toner replenishing device of claim 74, wherein a diameter of the movable member is equal to a diameter of the nozzle.

Claim 76 (new): The toner replenishing device of claim 74, further comprising:

a toner conveyance path extending from the toner container;

a toner delivery device configured to withdraw toner from the toner container and to transport the toner along the toner conveyance path; and

an air supplying device configured to supply the toner container with air.

Claim 77 (new): A toner container for use with an image forming apparatus, comprising:

a container body configured to store toner and including a toner outlet; and a shutter positioned at the toner outlet and including,

a toner passage configured to allow passage of the toner from an interior area of the container body, and

a movable member configured to move in the toner passage.

Claim 78 (new): The toner container of claim 77, wherein the shutter is configured to interface with a nozzle provided at a setting portion, and the setting portion is configured to removably receive the container body of the toner container.

Claim 79 (new): The toner container of claim 78, wherein a diameter of the movable member of the shutter is equal to that of the nozzle.

Serial Number: 10/757,439 Inventor: Kazuhisa SUDO, et al. Supplemental Preliminary Amendment

Claim 80 (new): The toner container of claim 78, wherein the movable member includes a piston and a piston rod, and an outer diameter of the piston is equal to an outer diameter of the nozzle.

Claim 81 (new): The toner container of claim 77, wherein the movable member includes a piston and a piston rod.

Claim 82 (new): The toner container of claim 81, further comprising: a mouthpiece member at the toner outlet, wherein, the shutter includes a support member that forms the toner passage, and the mouthpiece member is configured to support the support member.

Claim 83 (new): The toner container of claim 77, wherein the shutter includes an elastic member configured to bias the movable member away from an interior of the container body.

Claim 84 (new): The toner container of claim 83, wherein the elastic member is a coil spring.

Claim 85 (new): The toner container of claim 77, wherein the shutter includes a sealing member including a hole configured to receive the movable member.

Serial Number: 10/757,439 Inventor: Kazuhisa SUDO, et al. Supplemental Preliminary Amendment

Claim 86 (new): The toner container of claim 84, wherein the sealing member is made of a sponge material.

Claim 87 (new): The toner container of claim 77, wherein a diameter of the toner outlet is greater than a diameter of the toner passage.

Claim 88 (new): The toner container of claim 77, wherein the container body is filled with the toner via the toner outlet.

Claim 89 (new): The toner container of claim 77, wherein the container body is replenished with additional toner via the toner outlet.

Claim 90 (new): The toner container of claim 77, wherein the toner is stored in the container body.

Serial Number: 10/757,439 Inventor: Kazuhisa SUDO, et al. Supplemental Preliminary Amendment

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figs. 5, 7, and 9. These sheets, which respectively include Figs. 5, 7, and 9, replace the original sheets including Figs. 5, 7, and 9.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets